



# PAN AM RAILWAYS

IRON HORSE PARK  
NO BILLERICA, MA 01862

## LEGAL DEPARTMENT

(978) 663-1029

January 3, 2008

The Honorable Vernon A Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S W  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

JAN 07 2008

Part of  
Public Record



RE Boston & Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company –  
Abandonment and Discontinuance of service - Over the Canal Branch -- Hartford  
County, Connecticut – Docket No AB 32 (Sub No 101X) and *221201*  
Docket No AB 355 (Sub No 35X)

*221202*

Dear Secretary Williams

Enclosed for filing in the above captioned proceeding, please find an original and ten copies of the Verified Notice of Exemption dated January 3, 2008 filed on behalf of the Boston & Maine Corporation and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company. Additionally, please find a check in the amount of \$6,400.00 representing the appropriate fee for filing.

Should you have any questions in regard to this filing, please contact the undersigned at (978) 663-1029. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

*Michael Q Geary*

Michael Q Geary  
Staff Attorney  
Pan Am Railways

FEE RECEIVED

JAN 08 2008

Enclosures Original and 10 copies

SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO AB 32 (Sub No 101X)  
DOCKET NO AB 355 (Sub No 35X)



BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION  
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
-ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE-  
CANAL BRANCH, HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Boston & Maine Corporation (the "B&M") and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company ("ST") file this Verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to the Board's regulations at 49 C.F.R. §1152.50. This Notice of Exemption seeks to abandon and discontinue service by B&M and ST over a line of railroad known as the Canal Branch in Southington, Connecticut, extending from milepost 24.00 to milepost 25.51 in Hartford County. In accordance with the aforementioned regulations, B&M and ST make the following responses:

RESPONSE TO 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(d)(2)

1 Proposed Consummation Date

2008 The proposed consummation date of this discontinuance is February 27,

2 Certification Required in Section 1152.50(b).

The required certification is set forth as Exhibit B to this Notice of Exemption.

3 Information required in Section 1152.22(a)(1-4),(7),(8) and (e)(4)

(a) General

(1) Exact name of applicant

Boston & Maine Corporation  
Springfield Terminal Railway Company

- (2) Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to the Interstate Commerce Act

B&M and ST are common carriers by railroad subject to the Interstate Commerce Act

- (3) Relief sought

B&M and ST seek to abandon (B&M) and discontinuc (ST) service over the line

- (4) Detailed map of the line

Map is attached hereto as Exhibit A

- (7) Name, title and address of representative of applicant to whom correspondence should be sent

Michael Q Geary, Esq  
Boston & Maine Corporation  
Springfield Terminal Railway Company  
Iron Horse Park  
North Billerica, MA 01862

- (8) United States Postal Zip Codes that the line traverses

Zip Code 06489

- (e) Rural and community impact

- (4) Statement of whether the properties proposed to be abandoned are suitable for use for other public purposes, including roads or highways, other forms of mass transportation, conservation, energy production or transmission, or recreation. If the applicant is aware of any restriction on the title to the property, including any reversionary interest, which would affect the transfer of title or the use of property for other than rail purposes, this shall be disclosed.

B&M and ST are unsure about the suitability of the Line for public non-rail purposes. Prior to the effective date of this abandonment, title to the Line will be acquired by third parties.

4. The Level of Labor Protection

B&M and ST understand that, in exempting the proposed abandonment and discontinuance, the Board does not relieve the carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of employees. See 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(c). Accordingly, PT and ST anticipate that the Board will impose the conditions set forth in Oregon Short Line R. Co. –Abandonment- Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979), for the benefit of employees who may be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment and discontinuance.

5. Certificate of Compliance with the Notice Requirements of Section 1152.50(d)(1)

The required certificate is set forth as Exhibit C to this Notice of Exemption.

6. Environmental Report and Historical Report.

The Environmental /Historical Report required by 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 and 1105.8 is attached as exhibit D to this Notice of Exemption. Attached, as Exhibit E, is a certificate affirming B&M and ST's compliance with 49 C.F.R. 1105.11.

7. Newspaper Notice

The Newspaper Notice required by 49 C.F.R. 1105.12 was published on December 14, 2007. A certification is attached.

8. Verification

The required verification is set forth as Exhibit F to this Notice of Exemption.

Respectfully submitted,

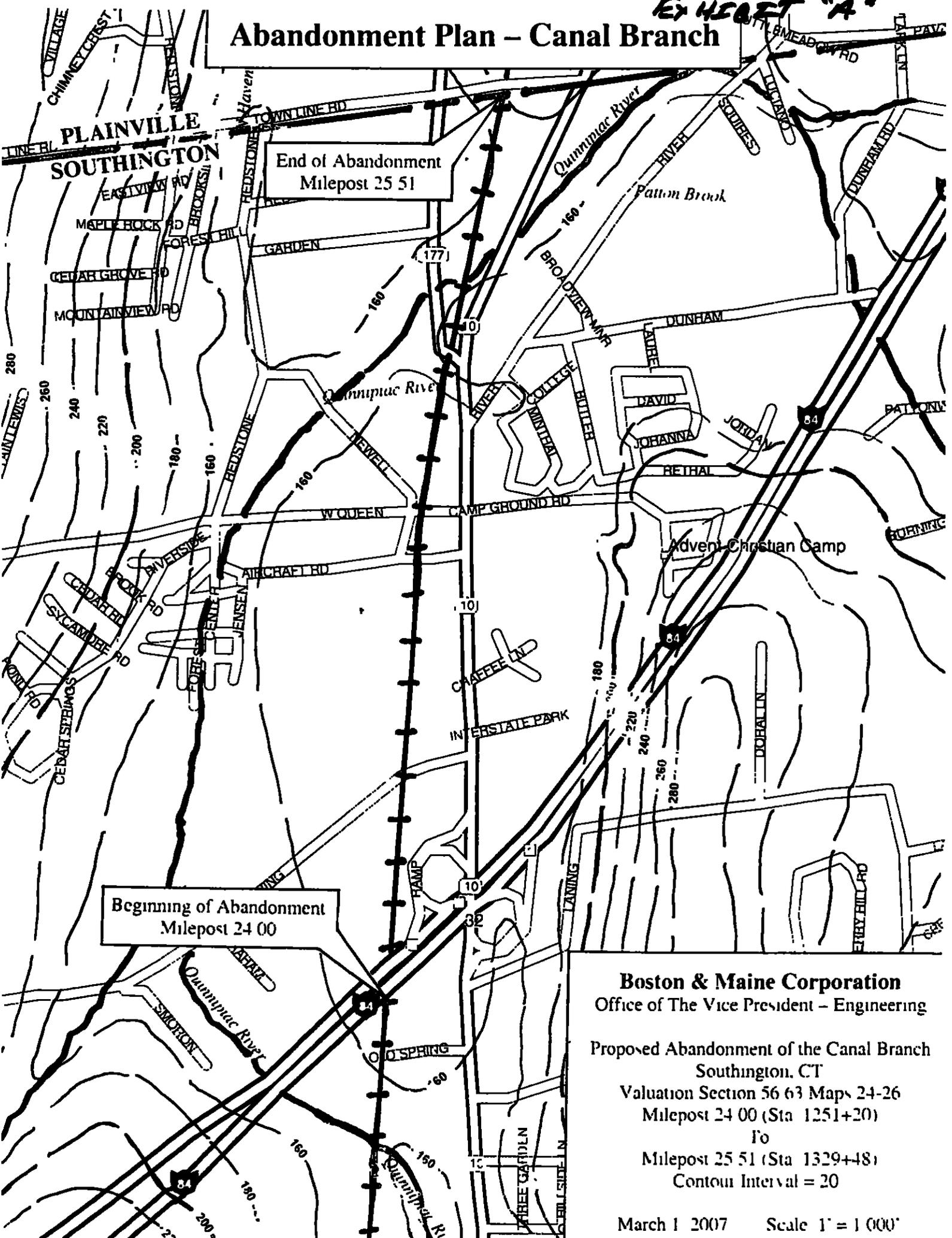


Michael Q. Geary  
Staff Attorney  
Boston & Maine Corporation  
Springfield Terminal Railway Company  
Iron Horse Park  
North Billerica, MA 01862

Dated January 3, 2008

EXHIBIT "A"

# Abandonment Plan - Canal Branch



Beginning of Abandonment  
Milepost 24 00

End of Abandonment  
Milepost 25 51

**Boston & Maine Corporation**  
Office of The Vice President - Engineering

Proposed Abandonment of the Canal Branch  
Southington, CT

Valuation Section 56 63 Maps 24-26  
Milepost 24 00 (Sta 1251+20)

To  
Milepost 25 51 (Sta 1329+48)  
Contour Interval = 20

March 1 2007      Scale 1" = 1 000'

**CERTIFICATION REQUIRED**

**IN 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(b)**

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. Section 1152.50(b), I hereby certify that, with respect to the line, which is the subject of the Notice of Exemption in Docket No AB 32 (Sub No 101X) and Docket No 355 (Sub No 35X) (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least two years prior to the date hereof, and (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line, and (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or state or local agency acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line is either pending with the Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period prior to the date hereof. The foregoing certification is made on behalf of the Boston & Maine Corporation and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company by the undersigned after due and careful investigation of the matters herein certified and based on the best knowledge, information and belief of the undersigned.

  
Michael Q. Geary

Dated January 3, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH  
NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF  
49 C F R 1152 50 (d)(1)

In accordance with 49 C F R Section 1152 50(d)(2), I hereby certify that

On November 30, 2007, I caused to be served by FedEx overnight delivery service, the notice required by 49 C F.R Section 1152 50(d)(1), upon

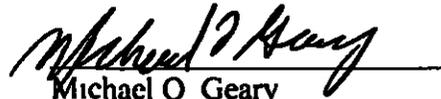
Commissioner Ralph Carpenter  
Department of Transportation  
State of Connecticut  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546

Office of Special Assistant for  
Transportation Engineering  
Railroads for National Defense Program  
Military Traffic Management Command  
Transportation Engineering Agency  
720 Thimble Shoals Blvd – Suite 130  
Newport News, VA 23606

Marie Rust  
Regional Director  
National Park Service, NE Region  
Recreation Resources Division  
U.S. Customs House  
200 Chestnut St , 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Gail Kimball  
Chief of Forest Service  
U S Department of Agriculture  
201 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington, DC 20250

Dated January 3, 2008

  
Michael Q Geary  
Staff Attorney

CANAL BRANCH

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL REPORT

Docket No. AB 32 (SUB NO. 101X)

Docket No. AB 355 (SUB NO. 35X)

I ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C F R § 1105 7(e)

1) Proposed Action and Alternatives:

The Boston and Maine Corporation ("B&M") and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company ("ST") (collectively the "Applicants") propose to abandon and discontinue service over a 1.51 mile portion of the so-called "Canal Branch" line of railroad (the "Line"). A map of the proposed abandonment and discontinuance has previously been provided to all parties receiving this report, and is attached as Exhibit "A"

Due to the inability to generate traffic over the Line, there is no reasonable alternative to abandonment and discontinuance.

2) Transportation System:

There will be no substantial effect on existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns

There is no passenger or freight traffic on the Line. Any traffic previously moving over the Line was rerouted more than two (2) years ago

3) Land Use:<sup>1</sup>

1) The Applicants believe that the proposed action is consistent with and in furtherance of local land use plans

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<sup>1</sup> The Applicants attach to this Environmental Historical Report as an Appendix all correspondence received from federal, state, and local authorities and agencies in response to the Applicants' request for comments regarding the proposed abandonment/discontinuance of service

ii) Based on consultations with the U S Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservations Service the Applicants believe that the proposed action will have no effect or adverse impact on any prime agricultural land

iii) This action is outside the boundary of the Connecticut coastal zone

iv) The Applicants are unsure whether the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U S C 10906

**4) Energy:**

i) The transportation of energy resources will not be affected by the proposed action.

ii) The proposed action will have no effect on the movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities

iii) The proposed action will increase overall energy efficiency in that it will allow the Applicants to eliminate their potential responsibility for costly and energy consuming maintenance operations for an unused portion of the Line

iv) The proposed action will not cause a diversion from rail to motor carrier in excess of the threshold levels set forth at 49 C F R § 1105.7 (c)(4)(iv)(A) or (B)

**5) Air:**

The proposed action will not result in any of the increases set forth at 49 C F R § 1105 7 (e)(5)

**6) Noise:**

The proposed action will not result in or exceed any of the thresholds set forth at 49 C F R § 1105 7 (e)(6)

**7) Safety:**

i) The proposed action will have no adverse effect on public health and safety

ii) No hazardous materials will be diverted to highway transportation

iii) No known hazardous waste sites or spills exist on the Line

**8) Biological Resources:**

1) The Applicants know of no endangered or threatened species or critical habitats that will be affected by the proposed action. The Applicants requested comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this regard. The Service responded and has advised the Applicants that “no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s).”

ii) The Applicants believe no national or state parks or forests will be affected by the proposed action.

**9) Water:**

i) The Applicants contemplate no action inconsistent with federal, state and/or local water quality standards.

ii) The Applicants do not believe the proposed action will require any permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No salvage operations will be undertaken by the Applicants. No designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected by the proposed action.

iii) Permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act are not required for the proposed action.

**10) Proposed Mitigation:**

Because no adverse environmental impacts are expected to result from the proposed action, no mitigation will be needed or is planned.

**11) Additional Information for Rail Constructions:**

The proposed action is not a rail construction proposal, so this section does not apply.

## II **HISTORIC REPORT:**

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C F R § 1105.8 (d)

### 1) **Maps:**

A topographical map is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"

### 2) **Description of the Right-of-Way:**

The portion of Line at issue is approximately 1.51 miles in length. The width of the right-of-way is 49.50 feet in width. The area is urban and generally level. The attached topographic map indicates the Line's topography.

### 3) **Photographs of Railroad Structures:**

The Applicants know of no significant railroad structures on the Line that are 50 years or older. The Applicants have made written request for comments from the Connecticut Historical Commission with regard to the anticipated effect of the proposed action on historical resources. The Historical Commission has responded and advised that this project "will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources."

### 4) **Construction Dates:**

Not applicable

### 5) **History of Operations:**

The Line was constructed in the late 1850's. Portions of the Line were acquired in the late 1840's and early 1850's. The Line historically served as part of a local system of branch lines. No local or overhead traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years. The proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service will not affect carrier operations in the area.

**6) Summary of Useful Documents:**

The Applicants possess standard valuation maps of all portions of the Line, which indicate any and all culverts, bridges, and other structures that may exist

**7) Opinion as to Historical Significance:**

The Applicants know of no significant structures on the Line (such as bridges, trestles, stations, tunnels, track supports, etc ) that are 50 years or older. The Applicants are not aware of any culturally significant locations, archeological sites or unique landforms located along the Line or that will be affected by the proposed action

**8) Description of Prior Subsurface Disturbance:**

The Applicants know of no prior subsurface ground disturbance, fill or other environmental conditions that might affect the archeological recovery of resources and the surrounding terrain

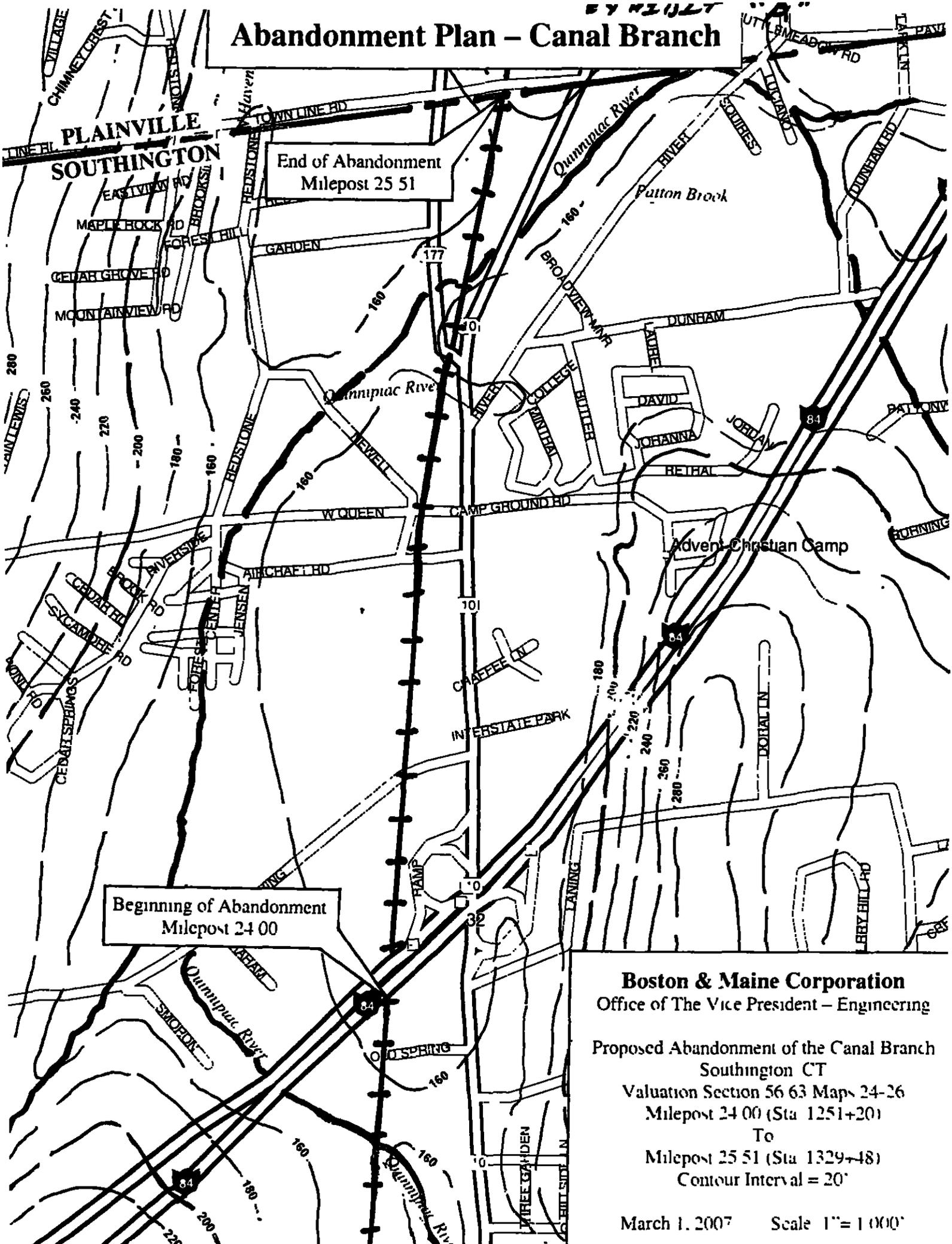
**III CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE:**

This certifies that the Applicants will serve copies of this Environmental/Historical Report upon and, prior to such service, consulted, or attempted to consult, with parties identified on the attached Service List

  
Michael Q Geary

Dated November 13, 2007

# Abandonment Plan - Canal Branch



Beginning of Abandonment  
Milepost 24 00

End of Abandonment  
Milepost 25 51

**Boston & Maine Corporation**  
Office of The Vice President - Engineering

Proposed Abandonment of the Canal Branch  
Southington CT  
Valuation Section 56 63 Maps 24-26  
Milepost 24 00 (Sta 1251+20)  
To  
Milepost 25 51 (Sta 1329+48)  
Contour Interval = 20'

March 1, 2007 Scale 1" = 1000'

**ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL REPORT  
SERVICE LIST  
CANAL BRANCH  
SOUTHINGTON, CT. 06489  
DOCKET NO. AB 32 (SUB NO. 101X)  
AB 355 (SUB NO. 35X)**

**Connecticut Intergovernmental Review Coordinator  
Budget and Finance Division  
Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1308**

**Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106**

**Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
Office of Long Island Sound Programs  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT. 06106**

**Mr John Weichsel  
Town Manager  
175 Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489**

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 1  
1 Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02114-2032**

**U S Fish and Wildlife Services  
New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street  
Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5087  
ATTN Mr Anthony Tur**

**U S Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751**

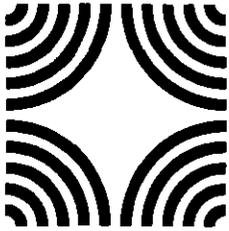
**U S National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
U S Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Natural Resource Conservation Service  
USDA  
344 Marrow Road  
Tolland, CT 06084**

**NGS Information Services, NOAA, N/NGS12  
National Geodetic Survey SSMC-3, #9202  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282**

**Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06106**

# **APPENDIX**



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

September 11, 2007

Historic Preservation  
& Museum Division

Mr Michael Q Geary  
Pan Am Railways  
Iron Horse Park  
No Billerica, MA 01862

59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06106

(v) 860 566 3005  
(f) 860 566 5078

Subject Canal Branch Railroad Line  
Milepost 24 00 to Milepost 25 51  
Southington, CT  
Docket No AB 32 (SUB No 101X), AB 355 (SUB No 35X)

Dear Mr Geary

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. This office expects that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

This office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented upon the proposed undertaking.

This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

For further information, please contact Dr David A Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

Karen Senich  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**Geary,Michael**

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**From:** Simon Monroe [Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 10, 2007 5:01 PM  
**To:** Geary,Michael  
**Subject:** Re: [NGS Response STB Docket AB-032 (SUB NO 101X-STB Docket AB-355 (SUB NO 35X))]

>  
> -----  
> -- Thank you for sharing your railroad abandonment environmental  
> report for Southington, Hartford County, Connecticut  
>  
> Approximately 03 geodetic survey marks may be located in the area  
> described.  
> If marks will be disturbed by the abandonment, [THE RAILROAD] shall  
> consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), and notify NGS at  
> least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb,  
> or destroy any geodetic station marks. These marks are described on  
> the attached file. Additional advice is provided at  
> <http://geodesy.noaa.gov/marks/railroads/>  
> -----  
> --  
>  
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>



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087



October 24, 2007

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Railroad abandonment, AB 32 (Sub 101X) AB 355 (Sub 35X)	Southington, CT
	Railroad abandonment, AB 32 (Sub 102X) AB 355 (Sub 36X)	Concord, NH

Michael Geary  
Pan Am Railways  
Iron Horse Park  
No Billerica, MA 01862

Dear Mr. Geary

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U S Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s) Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required

This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available

In order to curtail the need to contact this office in the future for updated lists of federally-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats, please visit the Endangered Species Consultation page on the New England Field Office s website

[www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm)

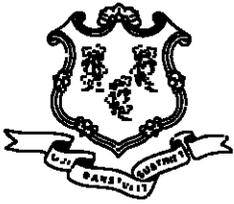
In addition, there is a link to procedures that may allow you to conclude if habitat for a listed species is present in the project area If no habitat exists, then no federally-listed species are present in the project area and there is no need to contact us for further consultation If the above conclusion cannot be reached, further consultation with this office is advised Information describing the nature and location of the proposed activity that should be provided to us for further informal consultation can be found at the above-referenced site

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony P. Tur". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Anthony P. Tur  
Endangered Species Specialist  
New England Field Office



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



October 1, 2007

Michael Q Geary, Staff Attorney  
Pan Am Railways  
Iron Horse Park  
North Billerica, Massachusetts 01862

RE Abandonment of Canal Line Segment, Southington, Connecticut

Dear Mr Geary

Thank you for your letter of August 29 regarding your filing of a Notice of Exemption to abandon a 1.51-mile segment of the Canal Line in Southington, Connecticut extending approximately from Interstate 84 northward to the Plainville town line

Please be advised that the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, as the owner of the abutting segment of the Canal Line to the south of the subject property, as well as the owner of portions of the Canal Line in Cheshire and Hamden, is interested in acquiring this segment for recreational purposes. Therefore, we request that you contact either Pamela Adams, Director of State Parks at (860) 424-3203 or Laurie Giannotti, DEP Trails Coordinator at (860) 424-3578, when you are ready to begin the process of disposing of this mile and a half segment of the Canal Line

We appreciate the opportunity to express our interest in this property and we look forward to talking to you in the near future

Respectfully yours,

Frederick L. Riese  
Senior Environmental Analyst

cc Pamela Adams, State Parks  
Laurie Giannotti, State Parks  
Beth Brothers, Land Acquisition



**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE  
WITH NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF  
49 C.F.R. 1105.11 AND 1105.7(b)**

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. Section 1105.7(b), I hereby certify that on November 15, 2007, a copy of the Environmental/Historical Report was served upon the parties listed below, by first-class mail, certified, postage prepaid

*Michael Q. Geary*  
Michael Q. Geary  
Dated 01/03/08

Connecticut Intergovernmental Review  
Coordinator  
Budget and Finance Division  
Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT. 06106-1308

Connecticut Department of Environmental  
Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Connecticut Department of Environmental  
Protection  
Office of Long Island Sound Programs  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT. 06106

Mr John Weichsel  
Town Manager  
175 Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489

United States Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 1  
1 Congress Street  
Boston, MA. 02114-2032

U S Fish and Wildlife Services  
New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street  
Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5087  
ATTN. Mr Anthony Tur

U S Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

U S National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
U S Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
USDA  
344 Marrow Road  
Tolland, CT 06084

NGS Information Services, NOAA,  
N/NGS12  
National Geodetic Survey SSMC-3,  
#9202  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

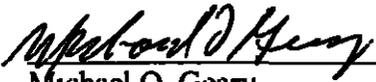
Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06106



**CERTIFICATION REQUIRED**

**IN 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1105.12**

In accordance with 49 C F R Section 1105 12, I hereby certify that, with respect to the line, which is the subject of the Notice of Exemption in Docket No AB 32 (Sub No 101X) and Docket No 355 (Sub No 35X) I have published a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which the line is located before the date of the notice of exemption was filed (See attached tear sheet of the Hartford Courant)

  
Michael Q Geary

Dated January 3, 2008



The Hartford Courant.

A TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

# Affidavit of Publication

State of Connecticut

Monday, December 10, 2007

County of Hartford

I, Joy Shroyer, do solemnly swear that I am Financial Operations Assistant of the Hartford Courant, printed and published daily, in the state of Connecticut and that from my own personal knowledge and reference to the files of said publication the advertisement of Public Notice was inserted in the regular edition

On dates as follows 12/08/2007

In the amount of \$338.25  
PAN AM RAILWAYS-BOSTON & M  
20223802  
Full Run

Financial Operations Assistant  
Joy Shroyer

Subscribed and sworn to before me on December 10, 2007

Notary Public

LISA CARDINI  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2011

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCONTINUE RAIL SERVICE**  
The Boston & Maine Corporation and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company give notice that on or about December 15, 2007 it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) under D.C. 20423 a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152 Subpart F. Exempt Abandonment permitting the abandonment and discontinuance of service over approximately 1 mile portion of track known as the Canal Branch between milepost 24.0 and milepost 25.51 (the "Line"). The Line is located in Hartford County, Connecticut and traverses through United States Postal Service Zip Code 06489. The proceeding is docketed as No. AB 32 (Sub No. 101X) and No. AB 35 (Sub No. 35X).  
The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will normally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which is normally available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. An interested person may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at 202-755-6211.  
Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions or rail banking/trails use also may be filed with the Board. An original and ten (10) copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trail use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 C.F.R. 1104.1(f) and 1104.3(a)] and one copy must be served on an authorized representative [See 49 C.F.R. 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trail use should be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202-565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on:  
Michael Q. Geary  
Staff Attorney  
Boston & Maine Corporation  
Springfield Terminal Railway Company  
c/o Horse Park  
100 North Main Street, MA 01102